

proceeds will support the historical organizations dedicated to Thomas Edison's legacy. I hope all of my colleagues will support this bill.

COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, when the Republicans were in the minority, they would often challenge the Democratic leadership of the House to implement comprehensive campaign finance reform. We are now in the 3d year of the Republican majority, and the Speaker in fact has only brought one campaign finance reform bill to the floor, a bill, and I should mention that the Republican leadership knew would fail, and did in fact fail by over 250 votes. I guess the Republicans' fervent quest for reform has been tempered by the power of being in the majority.

Campaign finance reform again is not a new issue to this Congress by any means. In fact, the House had passed a comprehensive campaign finance reform bill when Democrats were in the majority, but, as I mentioned previously, this was vetoed by President Bush.

Last week President Clinton came to this Chamber and challenged this House to pass meaningful campaign finance reform. He made it a priority of his administration. He set July 4 as the deadline. I believe the House can certainly pass reform legislation by then. I think it would be a true test of our democracy, and it certainly is a challenge we must face this session.

CAPITAL GAINS TAXES

(Mr. PAPPAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, on my first day as a Member of Congress, I kept a pledge to the people of my district to introduce legislation that would improve the quality of their lives. My legislation reduces the capital gains tax by 50 percent and seeks to eventually eliminate it.

All over central New Jersey, I have been told that overtaxation is a huge problem. I have had people tell me that they are not going to sell their homes or businesses until Congress acts.

People and businesses create jobs, not the government. Lower capital gains taxes leave more capital in the hands of businesses, entrepreneurs and individuals who create and expand businesses and jobs.

A New Jersey painting contractor was quoted in an article in the Washington Post as saying:

You're looking at a poor man who thinks the capital gains tax is the best thing that could happen to this country, because that's when the work will come back. People say capital gains are for the rich, but I've never been hired by a poor man.

The growth of our Nation's economy can be vibrant and grow if we are only willing to allow it to happen. Pass capital gains tax reform.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

(Mr. MCINTYRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, 1 week ago tonight the President underscored the importance of education. Education must be paramount and we must do whatever we can to help our children which is the wisest investment that we can make for tomorrow.

This investment has three callings for us: concern, commitment, and character. First, we should show our concern by contacting our local schools now and finding out how we can best help our teachers. Second, we should be committed. For the last 16 years I have gone into the classroom to volunteer and to work with our kids. Are we as business leaders willing to take the time to go and be role models for our children?

And third, we should be building character. Next week in our district we will have an electronic classroom that will go throughout the whole district to address children and to help bring them together with technology to talk about respect and responsibility, important ingredients for the citizens of tomorrow.

These are the three callings that we must answer. We must be ready with concern, commitment, and character and do what we can do now to help education on the local level.

RESPONDING TO PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, first let me salute all the many veterans that I have had the opportunity to see today who are expressing their views and pay tribute to them certainly for their service to their country. It is for that reason that I rise to talk about giving this House back to the people of this Nation.

Even though we have heard so much talk about campaign finance reform, the real question will be whether we will be serious as a bipartisan body to address this issue. Although I will say to you that most Americans will say just do a good job, recognizing that each individual Congressperson that represents their district does the very best they can and is assessed by the people who vote them in, but they do want us to come to the understanding that people control this House and not money.

At the same time I think it is important that those who want to express

their interest by supporting candidates should have the opportunity. I am glad to support the Farr bill which is a bipartisan approach to real campaign reform. It sets limits. It allows us to access the telecommunication highways, if you will, to communicate to the public. And, yes, it allows PAC's that represent people to participate. Let us come together by July 4 and give real independence and vote for real campaign finance reform.

Mr. Speaker, I come before the House this morning to urge my colleagues to respond to the President's call to enact comprehensive campaign finance reform by July 4 of this year. This House in which we are all privileged to serve, is the people's House. It belongs to all of the citizens of this Nation and these citizens are calling out to their congressional Representatives to restore their confidence in Congress' ability to act for the good of the Nation. During the congressional cycle of 1996 we saw unprecedented amounts of money spent on these elections, which only heightened public cynicism regarding how our democracy works.

If comprehensive campaign finance reform is enacted by the July 4 deadline set by the President, American citizens will truly be able to celebrate Independence Day. It will be independence from excessive fundraising by candidates running for political office. Independence from outside organizations having such a large and overwhelming impact on the electoral process simply because they have spent huge sums of money. Mr. Speaker, the people of the 18th District of Texas in which I am honored to represent want this House returned to the people. Let's have a real Independence Day this year. Let's not let partisan politics get in the way. Let's enact real comprehensive campaign finance reform and have a real Independence Day.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. AMBASSADOR CARL B. STOKES

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory and the accomplishments of U.S. Ambassador Carl B. Stokes who passed away in 1996 after a long and distinguished career as a political leader. The world will always remember him as the first African American mayor of a major American city. I will always remember him as a friend, a confidante, and a mentor who helped me navigate the rough waters of Cleveland politics.

Carl B. Stokes was born in 1927, the son of a laundry worker who died when he was 2 years old. His mother worked as a domestic. He and his brother, the Honorable LOUIS STOKES, who serves as Congressman, worked in neighborhood stores and delivered newspapers to help the family.

Over the years Carl Stokes excelled in many aspects of life: as a soldier during World War II; as a middleweight boxing champion in 1948; as an attorney and investigator for the Ohio Department of Liquor Control. In 1962, he